

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR/Albania

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SUBJECT Formation of the Yugoslav Volunteer Corps in the USSR and of a Yugoslav Military Unit in Albania

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1. Soviet officials have grouped Yugoslav refugees from Bulgaria, Greece, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Poland, France, and the Soviet Union at a location approximately 45 kilometers from Odessa. These men and women will be organized into units of the "New Yugoslav Army" under the name of the Yugoslav Volunteer Corps.
2. Men between the ages of 16 and 50 and, health permitting, up to 55, will be incorporated in this corps. Women between the ages of 18 and 40 will also take part. There is a total of approximately 2,300 men and women in these units.
3. Approximately 300 young men have been assigned to a paratroop school unit. Others have been assigned to the Navy and the Air Corps. Middle-aged men have been formed into two infantry companies. The instructors are almost all Soviets. Morale is very high, and all those who belong to the Yugoslav Volunteer Corps are assured constantly that they will spearhead the Soviet armed entry into Yugoslavia.
4. In Albania, but in no other country, the Yugoslavs have been grouped into a military unit at the complete disposal of that Government. An attempt to do the same thing in Bulgaria was blocked by the Soviet Government.

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* Comment: This more likely refers to three groups of Yugoslavs in Albania organized for cross-the-border operations.

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